



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
January 11, 2006

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BLM to Hold Federal Oil and Gas Lease Sale January 18, 2006

Santa Fe—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will offer oil and gas leasing rights on 71 parcels of federal lands and subsurface minerals totaling 32,455 acres in New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The oral auction will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, at the National Park Service's Paisano Building, 2968 Rodeo Park Drive West, Cactus Room No. 2080, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Paisano Building will open to the public at 8:00 a.m. to allow interested parties time to obtain bidding numbers. The sale will commence promptly at 9:00 a.m. Only oral bids offered at the sale will be accepted. Leases will be awarded to qualified bidders offering the highest acceptable bids. The minimum acceptable starting bid is \$2.00 per acre.

The breakdown by state is as follows:

57 parcels totaling	26,199 acres in New Mexico
1 parcel totaling	320 acres in Kansas
4 parcels totaling	866 acres in Oklahoma
9 parcels totaling	5,070 acres in Texas

Leases will be awarded for a period of 10 years or as long thereafter as there is production in paying quantities. The federal government receives 12½ percent royalties on production on those leases. The State of New Mexico receives half of this amount; in Fiscal Year 2004, the State received over \$340 million from federal mineral leasing, rents and royalties.

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